Syllabus
Bioc 800 – Graduate Research – Phillips Lab

Instructor: Dr. George N. Phillips, BRC 717 georgep@rice.edu (almost always available for consultation and help with experiments)

Location: BRC 720

Course objectives and expected learning outcomes:

- To conduct mentored research in biology and biophysics of protein structure and dynamics
- To generate new experimental and theoretical results that can be use to generate a Ph.D.
- dissertation describing new and novel discoveries, hopefully by the end of the fifth year in residence at Rice University.
- To gain experience in writing, analyses, and communication publishing papers in peer-reviewed
- journals and making presentations at national or international meetings.

Course structure: Graduate research is conducted full-time in the laboratory after completing the first two semesters of the BCB graduate program. Students should acquire advisor approval to attend classes or conferences and to arrange vacation time. Students are expected to spend at least 40 hours per week performing research and attending research-related meetings, classes, conferences, and other events.
Presentations: Students present research activities and progress in Phillips lab meetings (~3 times/year in Bioc 611), to other BCB graduate students (once/year in Bioc 581 or Bioc 582), and to their progress review committee (once/year). Students are expected to present a poster and/or talk at one scientific conference per year

Scientific writing: In addition to annual progress review documents, students prepare drafts of manuscripts of their research results for publication and have opportunities to provide critical comments on drafts of other lab members' documents.
Readings: Readings are from the primary literature in areas related to the research field or the experimental design employed by the student. Reading should be self-driven; students are expected to be knowledgeable about current findings in their area of specializationr.
Mentoring opportunities: Olson lab graduate students have the (optional) opportunity to mentor undergraduate researchers (usually Bioc 310 or 401 students and summer interns) in projects related to their thesis work.

Attendance and participation: Attendance and active participation are required.

Exams: No exams.

Grading: Grading is Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory based on research effort, research progress, and communication with the advisor. Course can be repeated for credit.

Rice Honor Code: Students are required to use proper citations and follow other practices outlined in the Rice Honor Code information on Academic Fraud and Acknowledgement of Sources: http://honor.rice.edu/honor-system-handbook/

Accommodations for students with disabilities: Any student with a documented disability needing academic adjustments or accommodations is requested to speak with the instructor during the first two weeks of class. All discussions will remain confidential. Students with disabilities also should contact Disability Support Services in Allen Center.